

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROBERT ALLEN KLICHER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert "Bob" Allen Klicker, the third-generation owner of Klicker's Strawberry Acres in Walla Walla, Washington. Bob was the definition of a hardworking American, passionate family man, and inspiring leader in his community. He lived an extraordinary 95 years, and every day, he proved his passion and love for those around him. A rancher, farmer, innovator, and entrepreneur, Bob leaves behind him a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Bob's passion for helping others began as he grew up working on the family homestead with his 5 siblings. He was inducted into his high school's Blue Devil Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in baseball, football, and track. After graduating high school in 1944, Bob served our country overseas in Guam as a servicemember in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning home, Bob met and married the love of his life, Nancy, with whom he went on to raise a family with for 67 years.

Bob loved hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and working in the Blue Mountains. Ever the trailblazer, Bob was known for trying new ideas in farming and expanding his family's business venture. He truly believed that growing the Klicker Strawberry enterprise would impact the Walla Walla community, and he was right. Over the years, Bob gave countless kids the opportunity to work on the strawberry farm and learn valuable skills that will last them a lifetime. Despite Bob's passing, these lessons continue to this very day, as the fourth generation of Klickers is keeping up with the tradition of providing work opportunities for local high school students. Bob's legacy will live on as his son, Kirk, and his daughter-in-law, Nancy, continue the family business.

Bob joined his family and his Savior Jesus in Heaven on September 9, 2022. He was a trusted friend and advisor to me throughout the years, and I will miss him dearly. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful life of Bob Klicker.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RALPH J. NEVALA

HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Ralph J. Nevala, 83, of California, Pennsylvania, who was called home to his eternal reward by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Born on February 28, 1939, the son of the late Weikko and Esther Oberg Nevala, Ralph spent his childhood on the Nevala Dairy Farm and was part of the California High School class of 1957.

Ralph met Marion Ferrer while delivering milk from Nevala Dairy Farm to her neighborhood in Monessen. They were married on August 23, 1958, raised two sons on the family farm, and celebrated almost fifty-nine years of marriage together.

In 1968, Ralph graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and honorably served the Commonwealth for nineteen years as a Trooper with the Vice Unit of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence. During his distinguished career, Ralph was responsible for the arrests of perpetrators of the "Triple Six Fix," the 1980 Pennsylvania Lottery scandal. His undercover work paved the way for justice on the high-profile case. Ralph's years of service in criminal intelligence also led to the crack-down on prostitution rings from Erie to Pittsburgh.

Following his service with the Pennsylvania State Police, Ralph converted Nevala Dairy Farm into a beef cattle operation that specialized in breeding Hereford bulls and Angus cows. He worked on the farm until his retirement in 2017. Ralph was also a longtime member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. This work led to lobbying lawmakers in both Harrisburg and Washington, underscoring the importance he placed in continued service to the farming community.

Ralph was an avid deer hunter and member of the Charleroi Sportsman Club. He also served the public as a State Deputy Game Warden. During the summers, Ralph enjoyed spending time with his grandsons on the farm and traveling to Washington, D.C., and the Carolinas.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents and his loving wife, Marion Nevala.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Ralph J. Nevala. May we aspire to live by his example of public service and devotion to family and community.

CELEBRATING CLAY PHILLIPS' LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime Chief of Staff Clay Phillips who is retiring at the end of this Congress. I thank him for his tremendous career of public service, including 16 years of service in the chief of staff role. There are few people in the Tampa area who have not worked with Clay. And I'm grateful for all the work that he has done to ensure that veterans receive the benefits that they have earned, to ensure that our neighbors were able to stay in their homes during the foreclosure crisis, and

all of his work on affordable health care and for social justice. He has always stood up for the voiceless, and as President Kennedy encouraged: "Let public service be a proud and lively career." Clay's career was both proud and lively.

A proud son of Florida, Clay attended Rollins College on a baseball scholarship before heading to University of Florida's College of Law where he earned his law degree.

From working on his first presidential campaign in 1975 to serving former Congressman Jim Davis in Tallahassee and Tampa, Clay has dedicated his life to paving a more prosperous country and community. He has played a key role in many of my greatest accomplishments while serving as Tampa Bay's voice in the Congress. It was a proud day for all Floridians and Americans when we unveiled the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune statue in the United States Capitol earlier this year—since the idea came about, Clay worked diligently with local and federal partners to ensure that one day all visitors to our nation's capital would learn about the historic excellence of Dr. Bethune. Clay's tireless efforts have supported the community he loves when it was most in need, including setting up foreclosure workshops that counseled local families on their financial problems during the recession and securing grants that have allowed Tampa to grow into the vibrant city it is today. Clay has been a constant presence in both Tampa and Washington, and he's known by all those he works with as a compassionate, quick-thinking team player. In lockstep with the priorities of our community, Clay has helped maintain the strong fabric of our community by supporting the working and middle-class workers who built Tampa into the bustling city it is today. A fierce friend and advocate for our brothers and sisters in labor, Clay worked on issues to boost pay and provide workplace protections for working Floridians.

I am grateful for Clay's career of service and the time that he's spent on my staff. He is a faithful friend and an unmatched public servant who will no doubt continue to serve as he begins the next chapter of his life. I would like to particularly thank his wife, Andrea, and daughter, Latham, for their patience and support of Clay and his work throughout the years.

Always ready with a JFK quote, timely pun or relevant Civil War fact—Clay created an environment for our staff to grow and serve. Known fondly for his "Clayisms", one our team knows well is that Mark Twain once said, "I didn't have time to write you a short letter, so I wrote you a long one." There is certainly no way to encapsulate the storied service of Clay Phillips in a concise blurb, so I am grateful that his legacy will continue through the policies that he helped craft and the lives that he touched.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to share with my colleagues a small slice of the incredible career of Clay Phillips. Our community and our country are forever better for his work.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF
THE HONORABLE ANN O'BRIEN
KEIGHRAN FROM THE CITY
COUNCIL OF BURLINGAME

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ann O'Brien Keighran as she departs public service after 17 years on the Burlingame City Council, serving four times as Mayor, and another seven years as a planning commissioner. Ann has been a tireless advocate for Burlingame's quality of life and for business improvement.

Burlingame is a city with 30,000 residents who enjoy a small-town environment just a few miles south of bustling San Francisco. Its tree-lined avenues and older homes combine with outstanding schools to entice the region's entrepreneurs, professionals, and hard-working skilled workers to raise families in the midst of a beautiful environment. Ann was raised in Burlingame, graduated from Mercy High School, and attended the University of San Francisco where she earned her Master of Science in nursing. She later practiced at Sequoia Hospital and taught nursing at our local community college and the University of San Francisco.

During her combined 25 years on the planning commission and city council, she worked tirelessly with her colleagues to retain the small town feel of the community while also adapting it to the evolving economy. Ann's tenure on the council included final determination of the future of the city's golf course, ongoing work on the storm drain system to eliminate frequent flooding and growing the tax base by approving major new office and housing developments. How many hours in the public interest has Ann given over a quarter century of service? It's hard to estimate, but it's safe to say she had zero time to watch reruns streaming on Amazon.

Significant improvements created during her time in public service include a new Community Center. Discussion about this facility began when she first took office, waxed and waned through economic cycles, and finally resulted in a successful bond measure. The building opened this year and is stunning. Ann was one of the center's earliest and most consistent voices.

She supported other long-needed improvements, including the reconstruction of the Broadway/Highway 101 interchange and an enormous improvement to Burlingame Avenue, one of the city's central business districts. As she noted in her comments to the public upon announcing her retirement from public life, the Burlingame Avenue project, "... brought beauty and commerce together to delight shoppers and residents."

Ann and her colleagues approved a new Safeway, but not without controversy. Two years into her council service, her diplomacy was key to getting this reconstruction accomplished.

She fought hard to make California's High Speed Rail project amendable to Burlingame's needs and supported construction of affordable housing on a city parking lot and the creation of Peninsula Clean Energy. Her record of public and private contributions also in-

cludes serving on the fire board, as the council's ongoing liaison to the Chamber of Commerce, as the city/school liaison, as an advisor to our local shelter for women, on task forces for housing and universal healthcare coverage, and as a long-time parishioner in Our Lady of Angels Church. From dog parks to redesign of our grand boulevard, the El Camino Real, to serving as a basketball team coach at her children's school, she's done it all.

As she retires from public office, Ann should look back over her time in public service as one of tremendous accomplishment. She noted in announcing her retirement that she shares credit with Burlingame staff and her many colleagues on the council. This is true, but it understates the fact that she made difficult decisions without rancor and helped keep the community's finances sound when things were really tough over many years.

Looking forward, her adult children, Kerry and Kate Rose, will now have more time to spend with their mother. Ann will work in her position with the Center for Age Friendly Excellence, helping to guide communities to become healthier, more accessible places for seniors. Of course, her quiet leadership will be missed. Her biography notes that she's quite an accomplished Celtic dancer. Maybe now that the gavel on a dais no longer dominates her weeks, she will find time to concentrate on this skill. From 1998, when she joined the planning commission, to the present, Ann danced for us on the public stage. She was an accomplished public policymaker, a real leader, and she's a tough act to follow. I wish her well in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on the Further Continuing Appropriations bill due to a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 523.

CONGRATULATING FLORIDA
TECH'S CYBERSECURITY TEAM
ON THEIR EXTRAORDINARY
FIRST PLACE FINISH

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florida Institute of Technology—L3Harris Institute for Assured Information student cybersecurity team, FITSEC, for their perfect accuracy, extraordinary score, and first place finish in this fall's 2022 National Cyber League tournament on November 6, 2022.

The National Cyber League team tournament is a biannual national competition. This year, 7,500 students from 470 institutions around the country competed to solve simulated, true-to-life cybersecurity problems. The National Cyber League assesses a team's ability to address nine critical cybersecurity workforce categories outlined in the NIST

NICE Cybersecurity Framework and the NSA Knowledge Units. Florida Tech students claimed victory with 100% accuracy and a score of 2,755 points out of 3,000. With this win, FITSEC has moved Florida Tech to the number one spot in the Cyber Power Rankings.

Founded by NASA scientists and located in the city of Melbourne on Florida's "Space Coast," Florida Tech has always been known for its strength and contributions in aerospace engineering and space science. More recently, the university has also earned its position as a leader in cybersecurity research and education. Home to the L3Harris Institute for Assured Information, Florida Tech has been recognized as a National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security "National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Research".

Florida Tech's rigorous undergraduate cyber operations curriculum, modeled after the NSA Cyber Operations Knowledge Units, is developing bright young minds that will most certainly be among our nation's future leaders in this field. It is good to know that students from my district in Brevard County will soon help solve the problems of tomorrow, like countering unchecked foreign threats, securing intellectual property and private information, and meeting the growing need for exceptional cybersecurity professionals in our nation's industries, agencies and government.

According to Florida Tech's provost, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Dr. Marco Carvalho: "The success of FITSEC underscores the value of collaborations between industry and academia, such as our L3Harris Institute for Assured Information. Here, we have some of the best computer scientists and software engineers in the world conducting cutting-edge research in cybersecurity, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. The same experts then teach, mentor and coach our FITSEC students. Finally, these students bring their skills to top U.S. companies and organizations, making invaluable contributions to the security and stability of vital information, systems, and resources."

Chair of the cybersecurity program Dr. TJ O'Connor, tells us: "The FITS EC cybersecurity team and cyber operations curriculum contribute to our national security and strength by building critical skills in the cybersecurity workforce gap. The L3Harris Institute of Assured Information and Florida Tech's commitment to excellence in this domain is proven by its successful track record, including the recent victory in the National Cyber League Team tournament, and resulting number one national ranking."

The 2022 Florida Institute of Technology's team was coached by Dr. O'Connor and consisted of 5 graduate and 2 undergraduate students in computer science, including Kourtnee Fernald, Joshua Connolly, Blake Janes, Logan Suarez, Stephen Brustowicz, Alexander Schmith, and Curtice Gough. Dr. Sneha Sudhakaran, Florida Tech assistant professor and expert in mobile security and forensics, served as a co-coach of the team this year as well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Florida Tech and these student leaders on their outstanding accomplishments and wish them every success in the future.

CONGRATULATING LA GACETA
NEWSPAPER ON ITS 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Gaceta, the nation's only trilingual newspaper, on its 100th anniversary. Since 1922, La Gaceta has connected our community with news and served as a symbol of Tampa's rich history and culture.

The story of La Gaceta's founding began in 1913, when Victoriano Manteiga migrated from Cuba to Tampa's Ybor City. Victoriano worked as a lector in the Morgan Cigar Factory where he would read novels, local and world news, and political publications to factory workers as they rolled cigars—a staple of Tampa. In 1922, Victoriano founded La Gaceta with the help of Dr. Jose Avellanal, director of the Centro Español mutual aid society. A Spanish language newspaper, La Gaceta was created to serve the needs of the growing Latin, immigrant population of Tampa. Creating a space to tell local stories, discuss politics and world events, share recipes, highlight sports and other areas of interest, La Gaceta was very well received by the community. One of its most notable early recognitions beyond Tampa came in 1950, when La Gaceta was awarded the title of best Spanish language newspaper in the U.S. by the Linguaphone Institute.

In the 1950s, the newspaper grew its readership by publishing in English and later Italian, further serving the community and preserving another language and culture of Tampa's population. To this day, La Gaceta remains the country's only trilingual newspaper. It was also in the 1950s that Victoriano's son, Roland, grew in his role with the paper. Roland founded a column, *As We Heard It*, where he would predict political races, provide commentary and share his insider knowledge regarding politics. Roland's column gained much attention locally, statewide and even nationally from politicians like former presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush. Both Roland and *As We Heard It* would become known as major political influences.

Today *As We Heard It* and La Gaceta are run by Roland's son, Patrick Manteiga. Owned and operated by the Manteiga's for three generations now, it is the oldest family-owned newspaper in the United States. As editor and publisher, Patrick leads a hardworking team of individuals who produce weekly editions of La Gaceta for readers to enjoy.

To commemorate La Gaceta's historic achievement, documentary producer Lynn Marvin Dingfelder, an Emmy award-winning Tampa local, released the film "La Gaceta The Documentary: 100 Years and 3 Generations Behind America's Only Trilingual Newspaper" this year. Operating her own production company for over 20 years now, Lynn has shared many stories of our community through her films and has described Tampa as a place with deep love and respect for its history. This film is a symbol of that admiration and a way to both share and preserve La Gaceta's story.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I congratulate La Gaceta on this monumental

achievement of its 100th anniversary. As the oldest Spanish language newspaper and the second oldest minority-owned newspaper in the United States, La Gaceta demonstrates the great value and impact that ethnic publications hold in our nation. I am eager to see where La Gaceta's future will lead it and all of its readers across Tampa Bay and beyond.

CONGRATULATING LONNIE STEPHENSON FOR 47 YEARS WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER-
HOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
(IBEW)

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lonnie Stephenson on 47 years of service and dedication to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

Mr. Stephenson joined the IBEW Local 145 in the Quad Cities in 1975 as an apprentice. Mr. Stephenson's later took positions as the union's Business Manager, International Representative and International Vice President. He was elected President of the union in 2015 and was re-elected twice. During his tenure as President, union membership steadily increased and currently stands at 775,000 members. He has worked as an advocate for accelerating IBEW's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity through the IBEW Strong Program, which aims to recruit more people of color and women as union members. Mr. Stephenson advocated for trade unionism and worked tirelessly alongside other unions and associations throughout the pandemic to ensure America's labor workforce was rightly recognized as essential workers.

Under the leadership of Mr. Stephenson, IBEW has supported the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included pro-union job creation provisions, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which will provide substantial funding for multiemployer pension programs. I am confident that IBEW will continue to grow and thrive for many years to come because of Mr. Stephenson's commitment and service to workers.

It is because of Illinois' hardworking and dedicated leaders like Lonnie Stephenson that I am especially proud to serve in Congress. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally congratulate Lonnie Stephenson for over four decades of service to Illinoisans.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
U.S. ARMY VETERAN JOHN E.
HUGHES

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John E. Hughes for his dedicated service to our country.

Mr. Hughes was born in 1945 and attended Hadley-Luzerne Central School District schools, where he was actively engaged in

academic and student life. He enlisted in the United States Army on June 13th, 1966, serving with Company C, 124th Signal Battalion, 4th Infantry Division as a Radio Teletype operator in Vietnam.

During his time in the Army, Mr. Hughes was stationed at the Central Highlands in Vietnam, where he transported soldiers and supplies to and from firebases. While participating in a Reaction Force Patrol, Mr. Hughes saved the life of his fellow soldier and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for his selfless act. For his tremendous commitment to service, he was also awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army in March 1968, Mr. Hughes was employed as a heavy equipment operator for Finch Prime & Co. He maintained participation in multiple veterans' organizations, including the William J. Varney American Legion Post #862, the VFW Post #5836, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Tri-Town Seniors, and publicly served as Assessor for the Town of Hasley. Mr. Hughes married the love of his life in 1970, and they raised their beautiful family of 3 children together.

Throughout his life, Mr. Hughes demonstrated exemplary service to his country and members of his community. I am proud to recognize him during the Saratoga County Veterans Association's Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to commend the life of Mr. John E. Hughes and thank him for his brave service to our country.

HONORING ASSESSOR SUE HORNE

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. LaMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Nevada County Assessor and a close friend of mine, Sue Horne. Sue's leadership in Nevada County over the years serves as a testament to her outstanding work and her dedication to the community. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I know the people of Nevada County have benefited greatly from her time in office.

Throughout Sue's career she has worked hard to represent the best interests of the people. Her service to Nevada County residents began during her work under 2 State Assembly members as a staffer. After that time, she was elected to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors for 8 years, where she would serve a year as Chair. During her time on the Board, she would also serve as the Chair of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) in 2007.

After her service on the Board of Supervisors, Sue was elected as the Nevada County Assessor in 2010. As Assessor, Sue worked to ensure that Nevada County taxpayers receive a fair and accurate assessment of their taxable property in accordance with California tax law. She is also a member of the Northern California Assessors Association and served as its President in 2019. She has served 3 terms in her role as Assessor.

Never one to slow down, Sue has also been an active volunteer in the community. She has

volunteered with our local Friends of Nevada County Military for many years, serving on its board and helping to pack monthly care packages for local service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2006, she helped found the Sierra Nevada Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America and served as the organization's first president that same year.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Sue. I thank her for being someone I can always rely on and call for advice. Sue and her husband, Bruce, have been married 48 years, live in Alta Sierra and have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. In her "other" life, she loves to travel, hike the Sierra, mountain bike, and loves being with her family and friends. I wish Sue the best in her retirement, and I will always appreciate our talks. I thank Sue for her service to the people of Nevada County, she will be missed greatly.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR, JACK E. FERNÁNDEZ

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Jack Eugene Fernandez, a Tampa native and true renaissance man, who passed away on July 31, 2022 at the age of 92.

Jack was born and raised in Tampa by his parents, Jacinto Fernández and Matilda Fernández-Vila, along with his sister Anita Fernández DeMesa. He spent much of his childhood exploring and playing around Downtown Tampa where his father owned a shoe repair shop. It was in his father's store that Jack would eventually meet his beloved wife, Sylvia.

Jack graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1947. From there, he went to the University of Florida and—all before the age of 24—earned his Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees in Organic Chemistry. Jack was later drafted by the Army and stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he worked for the civilian Operations Research Office. Following his military service, Jack turned to academia. He moved to Durham, North Carolina to pursue a teaching opportunity as well as a Damon Ruyon Grant to conduct cancer research at Duke University. He then worked as a research chemist at the Eastman Kodak company in Kingsport, Tennessee before deciding to move back to his hometown of Tampa with Sylvia and their 3 sons.

Jack and his family returned to Tampa in 1960 when instruction first began at the newly established University of South Florida. He worked as a chemistry professor with the USF charter faculty and sponsored over 20 graduate students, published over 50 research articles in peer reviewed chemical journals and wrote 5 chemistry textbooks throughout his tenure. He even served abroad as a Fulbright Scholar in Madrid, Spain and Bogota, Colombia. Over the course of his career with the University, Jack received 5 teaching awards, including the All University Teacher of the Year Award.

Following his retirement from USF in 1995, Jack turned to his next career as a writer.

Taking inspiration from his own experiences and the stories he heard growing up, Jack wrote Tampa-based novels, short stories and poems as well as columns for *La Gaceta*, *Cigar City Magazine* and the *Tampa Tribune*. His most acclaimed work was his novel, *Café Con Leche*, which tells the story of the multi-racial, multi-cultural community within Tampa's historic Ybor City during the early 19th century.

Above all else, Jack loved his family. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Sylvia, and his 3 sons and their wives: Jack and Anne, Albert and Nancy, and Rudy and Meg. He is also survived by his 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Jack Eugene Fernández for his lifelong commitment to service above self. As a veteran, scientist, teacher, writer and family man, Jack touched the lives of so many. All in our Tampa Bay community are eternally grateful for the legacy he leaves behind and will continue to cherish his wonderful contributions to our home.

HONORING SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF OZZIE KNEZOVICH

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my longtime friend, Spokane Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich. At the end of December, Ozzie will retire from public service after serving more than 29 years in law enforcement, including 16 years as Spokane County Sheriff.

Sheriff Knezovich began this law enforcement career as a patrol officer for the City of Olympia, WA, and the City of Rock Springs, WY, before joining the force in Spokane. Here, he rose through the ranks serving first as a Field Training Officer, then as a Property Crimes Detective, Sex Crimes Detective, SWAT Team Operator, SWAT Team Supervisor, Patrol Supervisor, and later as a Training Supervisor, where he remained until he was elected as the top law enforcement officer of Spokane County in 2006.

Sheriff Knezovich has faithfully served the people of Spokane County as Sheriff for the last 16 years, during which he earned the trust and confidence of our entire community. In his role as Sheriff, Ozzie oversees a vast law enforcement force of officers, who under his direction, protect and serve nearly 546,040 Spokane County residents across more than 1,781 square miles.

A devoted public servant dedicated to reaching out to the community and Spokane County youth, Sheriff Knezovich serves on several outreach boards including the United Way, Daybreak Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Frontier Behavioral Health, the Arc of Spokane, Boy Scouts of America, Community Service Team. He is also the Founding Board Member for the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force.

Sheriff Knezovich is a true public servant who is always eager to make a difference. His long-held goal has been to provide effective and efficient law enforcement service while

building strong and trusting relationships within the community. He has certainly achieved that goal and so much more. Sheriff Knezovich's dedication to and impact in Spokane County is seen far beyond the walls of the Sheriff's Department, as he has proven himself to be a catalyst in improving the lives of Spokane County citizens.

Having first been elected in 2004 myself, I've had the honor of working with Sheriff Knezovich throughout his entire career. I've enjoyed the many projects we collaborated on to make Eastern Washington a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. He's been a tremendous partner, and he will be dearly missed by all those who had the pleasure of working with him.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich has dedicated his entire adult life to public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication and selflessness displayed by Sheriff Knezovich for nearly three decades. While Sheriff Knezovich is deserving of far greater accolades from a grateful public, the United States House of Representatives extends our sincere appreciation and best wishes for a retirement of joy and peace.

CELEBRATING 240 YEARS OF THE MINGO CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the congregation of The Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church for 240 years of service to God and their community in southwestern Pennsylvania.

As early as 1774, Scotch-Irish settlers of America's first western frontier gathered at the site of Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church. Records show that the first official Christian worship services took place in 1782 and have continued uninterrupted to this day. The original meeting house was used by The Mingo Creek Society, a group of dissidents involved in the protest against the federal whiskey excise tax beginning in 1794. The Mingo Creek log structure and the surrounding grounds served as "the cradle of the Whisky Rebellion." There, militia leaders met and plotted the first revolt to test our young republic. Major James McFarlane, a veteran of the American Revolution, was one of the few killed in the uprising and is among the rebel figures buried in the Mingo Cemetery.

The Church's first permanent pastor, Dr. Samuel Ralston, arrived as an Irish missionary in 1796 and served until 1837. His legacy was far-reaching, as his descendants remained active in the Mingo Creek Church through the 1960s. Throughout this time, the Church underwent several changes. Mingo Creek began its Mission and community outwork in 1841, which are still critical ventures. Curved walls were added in 1903, while a manse and Christian education building were built in 1924 and 1958, respectively. These changes allowed the Church to welcome more inside its walls, including traveling dignitaries. Among those was President Harry S. Truman, who delivered a speech at the Church's early 19th-century wooden pulpit.

Madam Speaker, the Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church's story, is deeply rooted in our great Nation's origins. The Church has stood as a testament of faith for 240 years, and its storied history has earned the religious institution a standing in the National Registry for Historic Places. I look forward to what the next chapter has in store for the congregation and community.

**THANKING HUNTER LIPSCOMB
FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE**

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my original staff members, Hunter Lipscomb, who started with me on my first campaign in 2010. I had just won my Republican primary, and I was focusing on recruiting and building my leadership team to take on a popular 10-term incumbent in the general election. Hunter was a graduate student, writing on political topics for his university paper and itching to get into a campaign fight to help win a Republican majority in the House of Representatives.

As it turned out, Hunter and I had many common interests, including military service. I used to train with his older brother, Jamie, who was in the Army National Guard while I was in the Marine Corps Reserve. Hunter had dissected my campaign and helped craft a plan for the campaign's final months that worked against all odds. We won.

Hunter served in various roles—he helped the transition, set up the office, and worked as a legislative aid and communications director before returning to the district to serve as my District Director/Deputy Chief of Staff. We put south Mississippians first.

In 2017, I asked Hunter to serve as my Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C. During his time as my Chief of Staff, Hunter focused on communicating with constituents and working on policy matters that impact the district. Always looking through the lens of how a policy might affect Mississippians, Hunter maneuvered our office to lead on keeping flood insurance available and affordable and making the Mississippi Sound whole from freshwater intrusion.

Hunter took a particular interest in aligning and maximizing the needs of Mississippi's federal assets, including the Stennis Space Center, our military installations, and shipbuilding capacity. He also focused on ensuring these entities received the federal appropriations and policy support to remain competitive and vibrant.

Most importantly, Hunter was responsive to constituent groups and elected officials, serving as their advocate on whatever issue they might bring, treating it as a top priority of the office, and more times than not, being successful on their behalf.

I appreciate Hunter's tireless energy in working to make my office successful. I am proud of our time together and our enduring friendship. I thank Hunter for his 8 years of dedicated service to Mississippi's 4th Congressional District.

Always Ready, Always There.

HONORING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTS ADVOCATE, JUDY LISI

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the career and contributions of Judy Lisi, a fierce leader in the Tampa arts community. After 30 years serving as CEO and President of Tampa's David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, the largest performing arts hall in the Southeastern United States, I congratulate and thank Judy for the incredible impact she has had on Tampa's cultural landscape.

Judy began her career with the Straz Center in 1992, just 5 years after the venue first opened its doors in downtown Tampa. She took on the opportunity to lead the performing arts center as she saw the great potential it held in advancing Tampa's arts scene and bringing together a community. Before her arrival in Tampa, Judy worked at the Shuber Theater in New Haven, Connecticut, just 2 hours away from New York City's Broadway stages. A Juilliard-trained soprano, Judy was able to apply her expertise and experience towards her ambitions for the Straz Center. Within her first year as President and CEO, Judy brought in a 20 percent increase in attendance at the venue, and her passion and determination led to continued growth from there. Throughout her tenure, she doubled the venue's number of stages, founded the Opera Tampa company and led production for original plays, including the musical "Wonderland," which made its way from Tampa to Broadway. Outside of theater, Judy grew the Straz's program offerings to include countless standup comedians and musicians over the years. From Tito Puente to Taylor Swift, Judy brought in a variety of performers to demonstrate the constant evolution of art and to share that excitement with so many members of our community. Judy also oversaw the creation of the Straz's Patel Conservatory, a performing arts training institution that offers opportunities for all ages and interests. The conservatory provides a safe space where students can receive various forms of performing arts education and encouragement to pursue their own artistic interests.

Judy's work has not only contributed towards people's engagement with the Straz Center, but with downtown Tampa. Today our neighbors can see a show at the Straz Center, stroll along the riverwalk or view the most recent exhibit at the Tampa Museum of Art, among many other landmarks. It is because of the determination and commitment of leaders like Judy that our community is able to take full advantage of Tampa's culture and history.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Judy Lisi for her dedication to arts education. We are immensely grateful for her leadership and service and wish her all the best in her retirement. Judy's legacy will be appreciated by and inspire many in the arts community, from Tampa to Broadway, for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CARMEN H. PEREZ

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness and the utmost respect that I take this time to remember one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Carmen H. Perez, beloved mother, grandmother, and educator of over 45 years. On Friday, December 16, 2022, Carmen passed away at the age of 89. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, students, and the many people whose lives she influenced.

Carmen H. Perez was a lifelong educator and taught at several school corporations throughout the region, including the Gary Community School Corporation, where she spent much of her career. Carmen's passion for the principles of early childhood development and inclusion led her to start the first bilingual preschool education program in the state of Indiana. In 2004, Carmen was presented with the Spirit of Justice Award by the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, its highest honor, for her work dedicated to improving the integration and success of Latino students. Her true devotion to helping children and young adults succeed will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.

In addition to her outstanding career, Carmen also had a passion for advocacy and civil service. She participated in the 1969 White House Conference on Food, Health, and Nutrition, and served as a delegate to both the 1970 White House Conference on Children and the 1971 NATO International Conference on Cities. In 1986, Carmen was invited by the United States Department of State to the Foreign Policy Conference for Leaders of National Minority and Women's Organizations. For her humble and unwavering civil service, Carmen is worthy of our praise and gratitude.

Carmen H. Perez is survived by her loving daughter, Nina, grandson, Michael (Hannah), best friend, Rose, and in March 2023, great-grandson, David. She will also be remembered by numerous friends, neighbors, and students for her truly outstanding contributions to her community and throughout the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and remembering Carmen H. Perez for her lifelong commitment to education and civil service. For her truly meaningful career and her devotion to so many virtuous causes, Carmen leaves a legacy that is worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERAN AND TIRELESS TRIAL LAWYER, JIM CLARK

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of James "Jim" W. Clark, a veteran and tireless trial lawyer of over 50 years, who passed away on July 30, 2022 at the age of 77.

Jim was born in Ocala, Florida and raised by his parents, Maxine and Earnest, along with his brother, Earnest Jr. He attended Ocala High School and upon graduating in 1962, went to the Gordon Military Academy before enrolling at the University of Florida (UF) on a ROTC scholarship in 1964. While at UF, Jim met his beloved wife, Velva Wells, and they married in 1965. The following year, Jim graduated from UF and commenced his military service in the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group (Green Beret), 101st Airborne. Having served in the Vietnam War, Jim led a Special Forces A-Team and played a pivotal role in various combat operations with the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group (MACV—SOC). In honor of his incredible service, Jim was awarded multiple combat medals and ribbons. Following his assignment in Vietnam, Jim moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina with Velva and their daughter, Kimberly.

Jim's move to Tampa came in 1970 when he enrolled at the Stetson College of Law, all while continuing his service with the Army Reserves at MacDill Air Force Base. That same year, Jim and Velva welcomed their son, Dan.

Upon his graduation with honors in 1972, Jim commenced his legal career with the law firm of Peavyhouse, Giglio, Grant, Opp, Clark & Charlton, later known as "Clark & Martino." His son, Dan, later joined Jim at the firm in 1999. Jim was known to bring professionalism, kindness and even his own famous sayings to the firm. Some of his favorite sayings to share as he would head from the office to the courthouse were "Always stand 5 feet away from a qualified Army Ranger," "Nobody ever got fired for being early," and "Get the work done before you sit on your butt."

Having obtained Board Certification in Civil Trial from The Florida Bar, Jim worked as a leading preeminent trial lawyer for over 50 years. He held various memberships including those with The National Board of Trial Advocates and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Over the course of his career, Jim received numerous awards including the Hillsborough County Bar Association's "Michael A. Fogarty Memorial 'In the Trenches' Award," and the "Herbert G. Goldberg Award," the bar association's highest award given to a trial attorney.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, Jim was endlessly devoted to his family. He is survived by his cherished wife of 57 years, Velva, his daughter, Kimberly Yarbrough and her husband, Ted; his son, Dan and his wife, Sandra; and his grandchildren, Clark Yarbrough, Kirk Daniel Yarbrough, Claudette Yarbrough, Reid Clark, Justin Clark and Wells Clark.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Jim Clark for his lifetime of service. From his courageous military service to his decades as a trial lawyer, Jim was a hardworking, generous and devoted individual. He was loved and respected by his family, his colleagues and all who knew him. May his soul rest in peace and his legacy live on and inspire others in our community for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GEORGE GOULD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I honor and recognize the life and legacy of George Gould. Born in Buffalo in 1935, George was a graduate of Bishop Timon High School, where he was a standout athlete. He attended St. Bonaventure University, where he played basketball, and Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, where he played baseball. He went on to serve two years in the U.S. Marine Corps, from 1957 to 1959, at Camp LeJeune, S.C., where he was a member of the football and baseball teams.

Raised in the Old First Ward on Mackinaw Street, George Gould and his wife Kathryn later moved to the close-knit South Buffalo community to raise their family. Alongside his friend John Scanlon, George was one of the founding members of the Old First Ward South Buffalo Democratic Club and was honored as the influential political organization's Man of the Year.

George Gould was a scooper with the International Longshoremen's Association from 1960 to 1985 and served as a firefighter with the Buffalo Fire Department from 1963 to 1985. Mayor Griffin appointed Mr. Gould Director of Auditorium and Stadium Operations at War Memorial Stadium, Buffalo Memorial Auditorium, and Pilot Field. He held that position from 1981 to 1994.

To those who knew George best, his wife, Kathryn, his children, Kevin, G. Patrick, Brian, Elizabeth, Sheila, and Kerry Gould and his seven grandchildren, extended family members and to his many friends, George was known as a mentor and a true friend. George's dedication and service to the City of Buffalo and his support for the neighborhood will never be forgotten. Therefore, I am honored to recognize his legacy today.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my alma mater, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, as they celebrate 100 years, of educating students in Blair County.

Founded in 1922 as the "Altoona Catholic High School", the freshman class was composed of 87 pupils who would graduate in 1926.

Founded on the principals of goodness, discipline, and knowledge, Bishop Guilfoyle has become a thriving institution, a proven record of educational success and dedication to the faith.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvanian's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School on this milestone and wish them ever continued success.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL O'NEILL UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE PACIFICA CITY COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mike O'Neill as he departs from the Pacifica City Council after ten years of dedicated and outstanding service. Before joining the council in 2012, Mike served on the Pacifica School District Board of Trustees for 14 years and on the Pacifica Planning Commission for six years. Mike's dedication to public service and his joviality will undoubtedly be missed by his colleagues and the public.

It takes a special kind of individual to spend hours studying for, and being in, meetings to resolve thorny issues such as housing, transportation congestion, airport noise, disaster preparedness and education. Mike is one of those special kind of individuals. During his tenure on the council, he served on the Airport Community Roundtable, the Joint School District/Water District/City Articulation Committee, the Pacific Coast Television Board, the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance, the San Mateo County Library JPA, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG).

It's been my pleasure and honor to work with Mike and his fellow councilmembers on many issues. Mike is always looking for solutions and ways to collaborate and compromise. He has participated in several union contract negotiations and set spending priorities and managed budgets for his coastal hometown of 40,000 residents.

Pacifica spreads along six miles of the Pacific Ocean. It's world famous as a surfing destination and offers spectacular open spaces for hiking. When you hike to the top of Sweeney Ridge you can take in an awe-inspiring view of the Pacific Ocean, Crystal Springs Reservoir and San Francisco Bay. From the bluffs of Mori Point and Pedro Point Headlands you can watch humpback whales frolicking in the water. Pacifica is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. However, the power of the ocean has also created challenges for the city. The pounding surf, coastal erosion and sea level rise have undermined and destroyed infrastructure. Mike, along with the council and city staff, have worked closely with my office to find funding to secure the seawall at Beach Boulevard and Esplanade Boulevard where buildings were literally crumbling into the ocean and had to be demolished.

During the COVID pandemic lockdown, the beaches in Pacifica were a magnet for people from all over the Bay Area. So many people were flocking to the coast that the city had to restrict access. Those were difficult decisions during difficult times, but Mike and his colleagues were doing their best to keep people safe.

Schools are front and center in Mike's life. In his day job, he works for the Jefferson Union High School District in Daly City. For 14 years, he drove a school bus. If you have any doubt that Mike understands what teenagers are thinking about, think again. He just recently moved to Adult Education as a transition navigator in which capacity he helps adults with resumes, life skills and job

searches. He also served for 14 years on the Pacifica School District board where he focused on delivering the best possible education and learning environment for the students and teachers. His last vote on the school board was a vote to "surplus" the Oddstad school property so that it could be utilized better in the future. Seven years ago, plans to convert the property into workforce housing began. Mike was already on the city council and he pushed hard to get the plan approved. However, technical delays have been postponing the vote which is now expected in late January or February of 2022. While Mike will miss the vote by just about a month, Pacifica will not forget his leadership on the project. He was also instrumental in the creation of 122 workforce housing units for the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike was born in San Francisco. He received his AA in Criminology from City College of San Francisco and his BA in Recreation from San Francisco State University. He has worked as a savings and loan branch manager, investment manager, and realtor in addition to his jobs at the Jefferson Union High School District.

Mike and his wife Liz live in Pacifica with their middle daughter Siobhan. Their son Sean and daughter Alana have moved out and are building their own families. In his free time, Mike likes to barbecue and smoke meats, study history and play trivia.

Madam Speaker, I ask the members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mike O'Neill for his three decades of public service, ten of them on the city council. While he is leaving the dais, his fingerprints will remain on many Pacifica institutions. We thank him for his contributions and hope that we will still see him as Santa Claus during the annual tree lighting ceremony sharing a jovial ho, ho, ho.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I missed the vote on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3462 due to a meeting. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 506.

HONORING PATRICIA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration to honor Patricia A. Givens' incredible life of public service and to congratulate her on her retirement. Patricia's remarkable contributions to our hometown of Tampa have had a tremendous impact on our neighbors and citizens of Florida and is worthy of recognition.

Patricia was born in Tampa, Fla., at MacDill Air Force Base, where her father served. She graduated from Jefferson High School and later attended Hillsborough Community Col-

lege and Nova Southeastern University, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. She serves as the President for the Carver City Lincoln Gardens Civic Homeowners Association Inc. and is an active volunteer with her church, Revealing Truth Ministries.

After her tenure with a private company, Patricia's public service started in 2010 in the district offices of Florida Representative Betty Reed and Florida Representative Ed Narain. She then joined my district team in 2016 as office manager. Patricia has since been the foundation of my office, applying her organizational and administrative skills to ensure efficient operations so constituents are served with the highest level of professionalism, tracking each constituent interaction with attentiveness and accuracy. She is driven by her compassion and taps into her wealth of knowledge for local resources to help each constituent with understanding and kindness, and coordinates assistance right away.

As intern coordinator, Patricia has gone above and beyond to provide a beneficial as well as rewarding experience for interns. Because of this and her supportive nature, she has impacted the lives of students in a major way. Each semester, she has brought on a team of impressive interns who have flourished academically and professionally, returning years later to thank our office for their pivotal internship experience. Additionally, Patricia is credited with facilitating rehabilitation to our district office and ensuring our staff have the necessary resources they require to be successful each day at work.

Patricia has been an integral part of my team. However, I am sure she will continue extending her generosity as wife, mother, grandmother, neighborhood advocate, church member and traveler. Patricia is married to her husband Gary and has three children, and they are blessed with multiple grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Patricia embodies what it is to be a public servant and citizen. She has paved the way for generations to come, always giving her very best, leading by example, and always working to make lives better for those she serves. On behalf of the citizens of Florida and my neighbors across Tampa Bay, I am proud to honor Patricia A. Givens for her formidable efforts and selfless devotion to our community and congratulate on her well-deserved retirement.

REINTRODUCING THE EMERGING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2022

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Emerging Business Encouragement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation.

This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees. The company must be less than 5 years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Madam Speaker. I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS AS THE "DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS"

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate 30 schools in my Congressional District for their display of excellence this past weekend at the University Interscholastic League Texas High School Football State Championships in Arlington.

This past Friday, South Oak Cliff High School, part of the Dallas Independent School District, became the first DISD school to repeat as state champions by winning their thirteenth straight game, defeating Port Neches-Groves High School by a score of 34 to 24 to win the UIL Class 5A Division 2 title.

The Golden Bears fell behind early, 17 to 5 but came back to win the game thanks to solid performances by Quarterback William Little, who threw for a season-high 233 yards, and the South Oak Cliff defense, who forced 2 safeties along with a critical interception that was returned for a touchdown to put the game away late in the third quarter. With the victory, head coach Jason Todd made Texas history by becoming the first African American head coach to win 2 state championships with the same school.

The next day, the DeSoto High School Eagles showed the State of Texas why they're a top-ranked offensive program by overpowering the Vandegrift Vipers by a score of 42 to 17 in their UIL Class 6A Division 2 state championship game.

The Eagles racked up more than 600 yards of total offense, including two 100-yard receiving performances by wide receivers Tre Wisner and Johnntay Cook II and a 100-yard rushing performance by running back Deondrae Riden, who found the endzone twice in the third quarter to put the game out of reach.

In the nightcap on Saturday, The Duncanville High School Panthers finally did something they've been trying to do for the past 5 years, defeat North Shore High School and earn Head Coach Reginald Samuel a championship ring.

The game was competitive, with both teams tied at 21 a piece going into halftime, but a critical drive capped off by a 9-yard touchdown run by Caden Durham gave the Panthers the lead in the third quarter. A drive late in the fourth quarter by North Shore was stopped inches short by the Panthers' staunch defense with seconds left on the clock to secure the UIL Class 6A Division 1 title.

Madam Speaker, many members can say that their district is home to some of the top recruiting prospects in high school football, only a few members can say that their district is home to 3 state champions, but no other member in this chamber can proudly say that they have 3 of the top 70 nationally ranked programs in the country within their district lines. I want to congratulate the players, coaches, medical trainers, students, teachers, facility, staff, parents, and alumni of these 3 schools on their historic achievement and on showing the rest of the nation that Texas 30 is genuinely the district of champions.

RECOGNIZING MARGARET "PEG" RZEPSKI

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Margaret "Peg" Rzepki, a Constituent Services Representative in my Philadelphia offices, as she retires after 36 years of service to the House.

A lifelong Philadelphia resident, Peg has dedicated her career to working for the people of Philadelphia. Beginning her service in the office of former Congressman Thomas Foglietta, Peg later worked for former Congressman Robert "Bob" Borski and former Congressman Robert Brady. Since January of

2019, Peg has faithfully served as a member of my staff, working tirelessly for the residents of the City of Philadelphia. Beyond her service to the House, Peg has also served for many years as the leader of Philadelphia's 31st Ward, in addition to her involvement in several community and civic organizations.

Throughout her time serving the House of Representatives, Peg has approached her work serving constituents with unwavering commitment, an outstanding work ethic and a drive to make her neighborhood, city, and country a better place. Over more than 3 decades of service, Peg has personally helped 1000s of constituents, an extraordinary record of service attained by very few who have ever worked for this body.

As Peg concludes her decades of public service at the end of this month, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Peg for her work, and in wishing her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AL JORDAN CHAPTER 15

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Disabled American Veterans Al Jordan Chapter 15 on the 100th anniversary of its founding.

In 1932, Congress granted a federal charter to Disabled American Veterans (DAV), then the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, establishing it as the official voice of disabled veterans. Since its founding on June 12, 1922, in Stockton, California, the DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15 has cared for and represented countless veterans in San Joaquin County who were rendered disabled during their service.

Today, the DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15 continues its important work by providing assistance to those filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs and directing veterans to vital resources and services. The DAV Al Jordan Chapter 15 has helped many wounded warriors in our community transition to fulfilling futures upon return to civilian life.

I commend all the members of Disabled American Veterans Al Jordan Chapter 15, past and present, for a century of dedication to those who served our great nation. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring them today.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SHERRIE MEICHER

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the achievements of Sherrie Meicher, a dedicated champion for the people of Texas—10. After two decades of service as a field representative in my Houston office, Sherrie is entering a well-deserved retirement.

When it comes to field work, Sherrie has done it all: attended every ribbon cutting event, canvased every neighborhood, and made every phone call. No matter how much work she was given, she was always eager to do more. I am confident that her passion, commitment, and hard work made a positive impact on thousands of lives.

Before joining my office, Sherrie was a schoolteacher, where she gained invaluable skills like patience and communication that shone through her work each day. I will forever be grateful for the expertise she shared, the extensive connections she made in the Houston area, and the dedication she exhibited throughout her tenure.

While she will be deeply missed in my office, I have no doubt that Sherrie will enjoy her time with her daughter Elizabeth and will continue to bless her community, and all those with whom she comes in contact, for years to come.

FAREWELL REMARKS TO CONGRESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it has been a true honor to represent the 30th Congressional district in Washington and serve the great people of Dallas and North Texas as their representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. I have been privileged to work with so many dedicated public servants over the last 30 years to improve the lives of people not only in my district and state, but throughout the world.

I can leave Congress knowing I worked hard every single day to improve the lives of my constituents by improving opportunities for employment, expanding educational access, adding healthcare options for children, seniors, and veterans, and of course bringing their tax dollars back to Texas to invest in a broad range of new and improved infrastructure projects.

Throughout my career I have been privileged to be known as a trailblazer, beginning as the first female African American Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas, as the first Registered Nurse elected to the Texas House and Senate, first woman in Texas history to chair a major Texas House committee, the Labor Committee and U.S. Congress, and the first African American and female to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I was honored to be recognized as one of the most effective legislators in Congress, sponsoring and cosponsoring more than 300 bills passed by the House and Senate and signed into law, and my acclaimed initiative, A World of Women for World Peace, has gained national and international recognition. I am also proud of founding the Diversity and Innovation Caucus and Homelessness Caucus and chairing the Lupus Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Congressional Black Caucus.

One of my proudest accomplishments during my time as the Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus was to ensure that all minority voices were heard with one strong,

unified voice. With that goal in mind, I formed the Tri Caucus where Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and Congressional Hispanic Caucus came together to be a unifying group to bring attention to the issues all minority populations in this country face.

My service as a senior Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has given me an opportunity to fund critical infrastructure projects in my district including the expansion of Love Field Airport, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), the International Inland Port of Dallas, the creation of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) system, the construction of the 5.2-acre Woodall Rodgers Park project; millions of dollars for construction, operations and maintenance projects in the Dallas Floodway and Dallas Floodway Extension, drinking water facilities in North Texas as well as establishing a water research project at the University of Texas at Dallas and many other road and transportation projects such as securing funding to help complete the new signature Calatrava bridges on Interstate 30 and Interstate 35E.

I successfully secured Federal Transit Administration funding for a program for intermodal terminals that will help entities like Dallas-based Greyhound Corporation improve the efficiency of public surface transportation. I also successfully secured millions of dollars for improving bus stop by adding shelters and benches.

I appreciate working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with local partners and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to carry out various studies, projects, and programs relating to navigation, flood damage reduction, shoreline protection, dam safety, water supply, recreation, and environmental restoration and protection.

As the Chair of the Water Resources subcommittee, I authorized programs that improved drinking and wastewater systems in North Texas and cleaned up the Trinity River. I also joined my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues to improve and strengthen Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs and expand opportunities for minority and women owned businesses throughout the transportation industry.

Throughout my tenure as Chairwoman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee and Ranking Member of the House Science Committee, I have often referred to it as the "Committee of the Future."

When I earned the Chairmanship for the Full Science Committee at the start of the 116th Congress, I laid out 3 main priorities.

Those included: Ensuring the U.S. remains a global leader in innovation; addressing the climate crisis and restoring the credibility of the Science Committee as a place where science is respected and recognized as critical to good policymaking. I am proud to say that we have delivered great progress on every one of our priorities.

From transformative legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act, to recognizing and honoring hidden figures, and helping to support a strong research and development enterprise for the U.S., we have made great strides in what we set out to do. The Committee is well-known for its bipartisanship and ability to get things done. I think this speaks to the spirit of the Science Committee—and with few ex-

ceptions over the years, I think it has been this way for some time.

When we're working together to build a better future for Americans through building up our STEM pipeline, strengthening our nation's scientific institutions, and enhancing our research and development initiatives, to name a few, we are united in that effort.

Since the day I was elected Chairwoman, I have been dedicated to ensuring the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is run in a bipartisan, effective, and efficient manner. I am very thankful for the partnership I have had with Ranking Member LUCAS in so many of our efforts.

A main priority throughout my entire career has been to build opportunities in STEM for all—no matter their background, race, or zip code. I am pleased to say, many of our efforts to increase recognition and representation in STEM have been enacted. There is 1 bill in particular that I worked for 15 years to make it a public law, the STEM Opportunities Act. It passed this year as part of the CHIPS and Science Act. With CHIPS and Science, we will create solutions to the climate crisis, advance semiconductor research and manufacturing, and so much more. We put this bill together with the needs of each and every American in mind, and with solutions at the forefront.

We must remain steadfast in making sure the U.S. remains a beacon of excellence in science and innovation.

But I couldn't have done all of these things without my committee and personal staff and all the great people I worked with locally and in Congress, and the hundreds of people I've leaned on along the way, putting politics aside to make North Texas and the entire state a better place to live and raise a family.

Finally, as I leave this chamber after 3 decades of service, I want to provide some advice to my colleagues in this Congress and to those who will begin their service in the next session: Always remember that everyone has the same right to believe what they believe as you believe what you believe. Try to understand their reasoning for their beliefs to start to improve mutual understanding. Do not condemn before you have the explanation. It can start a mutual respect you never thought you would have.

And although I look forward to having some more personal time, there are still things I want to accomplish, and if the good Lord is willing, I will continue working to make Dallas area the best region in the nation.

RECOGNIZING ANNAMARIE FEENEY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Annamarie Feeney, a Constituent Services Representative in my Philadelphia offices, as she retires after 35 years of service to the House.

A lifelong Philadelphia resident, Annamarie has dedicated her career to working for the people of Philadelphia. Beginning her service in the office of former Congressman Robert

"Bob" Borski in 1988, Annamarie later worked for former Congressman Joseph "Joe" Hoeffel and former Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz. Since January of 2015, Annamarie has faithfully served as a member of my staff, working tirelessly for the residents of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties.

Throughout her time serving the House of Representatives, Annamarie has approached her work serving constituents with unwavering commitment, an outstanding work ethic and a drive to make her neighborhood, city, and country a better place. Over more than three decades of service, Annamarie has personally helped 10s of 1000s of constituents, and her efforts have directly saved or recovered millions in taxpayer dollars, an extraordinary record of service attained by very few who have ever worked for this body. Her exceptional accomplishments were recently recognized by the Congressional Management Foundation, who honored her with their 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award, given to only 2 congressional staff members each year.

As Annamarie concludes her decades of public service at the end of this month, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Annamarie for her work, and in wishing her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAMERON POURSOLTAN

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, for 7 years, Cameron Poursoltan has faithfully served the people of Texas through his work in my office. As he begins a new position as a legislative liaison at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, I rise today to recognize his achievements and contributions for the people of Texas's 10th District.

A native Texan and graduate of Texas A&M University, Cameron knows the Lone Star State like the back of his hand. He first began his work in my office while I was chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Throughout 2016, Cameron served as my staff assistant, and he quickly rose through the ranks to become my legislative director and right-hand man when it came to Texas policy.

Cameron cares deeply for his home state, which is why he continued to serve on my policy team even after he moved back to Austin. Although he is leaving Team MCCAUL, I have no doubt the people of Texas will continue to benefit from Cameron's work for years to come.

ADDITIONAL WAIVER FOR H. RES. 1518

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, when the Committee on Rules filed its report (House Report 117-630) to accompany House Resolution 1518, the Committee was unaware that

the waiver of all points of order against consideration of the motion to concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1437 included waivers of the following:

Clause 10 of rule XXI, which prohibits consideration of a measure that has a net effect of increasing the deficit or reducing the surplus over the five- or 10-year period;

Section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits consideration of legislation providing new budget authority in excess of a 302(a) or 302(b) allocation of such authority; and

Section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act, which prohibits consideration of legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget unless referred to or reported by the Budget Committee.

RECOGNIZING SEAN P. LEAHY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor the life and legacy of a truly honorable and remarkable man, Sean P. Leahy.

United States Marine Corps Major Sean Leahy was an incredible Marine, father, husband, and son. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut to his loving parents Tom and Laura. Sean would eventually head to University of Wisconsin Stevens Point where he was a hockey standout. Sean had a clear love for hockey and his country which ultimately led to him joining the United States Marine Corps. Sean was also a beloved teammate, respected team captain, and an energetic youth coach. His players and teammates had the utmost respect for him on and off the ice. Leadership was in Sean's blood, and he led on the hockey rink and on the battlefield with his fellow Marines. Sean followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather when he proudly signed up to serve and protect his country. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Allies Welcome. The Marines that knew him well described him as a lion of a Marine and his Marines were part of his family. I commend Sean for his unwavering service to the United States of America.

Throughout Sean's incredible life, he lived all across the United States and traveled all over the world. He ultimately settled down in Northeast Wisconsin after meeting the love of his life, Meghan, when his family moved to Port Edwards, Wisconsin. Sean's love for his wife, and their sons Ryan and Zack, is simply unparalleled. Sean was a truly remarkable public servant, leader, Marine, and most importantly husband, father, and son. Sean left a mark on all those he interacted with in life and our entire community will miss his presence.

Madam Speaker, today I ask for this body to join me in honoring the life and legacy of a remarkable man and soldier, Major Sean Leahy. The people of Northeastern Wisconsin thank Sean for his leadership on and off the battlefield, along with his kindness and dedication to his family, friends, and the United States. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Meghan, their sons, his friends, family, and all of the lives he touched throughout his life. Semper Fi.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARITA MIKESKA

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, for nearly two decades, the people of Texas have had a champion in Marita Mikeska, who served as my constituent liaison. As she retires and embarks on a new journey, I rise to honor and recognize her many achievements.

Marita began her work in my office in 2004 and quickly became indispensable. Having previously worked for seven lawyers, Marita was accustomed to high-stakes and fast-paced environments, a trait that served her well on my team. She handled any crisis with ease, and she performed every task—no matter how big or small—with a positive attitude that encouraged both coworkers and constituents.

Throughout her tenure in my office, Marita helped countless individuals on cases dealing with everything from the military to taxes. In the past four years alone, she helped Texans secure nearly \$5 million of their hard-earned money from the IRS.

Marita's retirement is well-deserved. While she will be missed, I know her husband Robert, daughter Michele, and granddaughter Ava will be blessed by their time spent together. A fixture of the Brenham community, Marita will no doubt continue to serve and benefit her neighbors for years to come.

RECOGNIZING LEOPOLDO MIRANDA-CASTRO

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the distinguished public service career of Leopoldo "Leo" Miranda-Castro, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Regional Director. He has served the Service with distinction and honor for more than 30 years and will be retiring at the end of this month.

Leo began his career with the Service as a private lands biologist in our native Puerto Rico. Notably, his efforts in this position helped pioneer Puerto Rico's shade-grown coffee restoration, benefiting our Island's people and wildlife. An advocate of public-private conservation partnerships, he often points to the success of the shade-grown coffee industry as an example of how government and private landowners can work together to achieve win/win outcomes for wildlife conservation.

After a decade working with private landowners in Puerto Rico, Leo went on to make contributions to conservation on a national level. As the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator in the Service's Headquarters, he developed a strong national network of partners in support of nonregulatory, voluntary habitat restoration. Later, he became the Project Leader of the Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office, where he encouraged collaboration and cooperation among public and private stakeholders to conserve the bay's

complex ecosystem and the species that depend upon it.

In 2012, Leo joined the Service's Southeast Region, serving as the Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services. In this role, he promoted collaborative efforts to conserve species at-risk of needing federal protection, oversaw recovery activities for listed species like the Puerto Rican parrot, and applied innovative approaches to reduce the regulatory burden on private landowners and partners.

For the last 4 years, he has led the Service's Southeast Region. His resolve to achieve outcomes through collaboration resulted in many conservation successes throughout the Southeast and the Caribbean. For example, the productive relationship with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources was enhanced under his leadership and resulted in the removal of the Monito gecko—found only in Puerto Rico's Monito island—from the endangered species list.

As Puerto Rico's sole Representative in Congress, I have been proud to work and partner with Leo over the last couple of years to advance our Island's conservation priorities. His efforts helped us secure critical investments to improve management and access for Puerto Rico's protected lands in partnership with local communities. This includes resources to rebuild the Cabo Rojo National Wildlife Refuge's headquarters and visitor center, as well as road repairs at the Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Most recently, he was instrumental in leading a coalition of federal, state, and private stakeholders to secure funding to protect and restore our iconic Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, the most important stopover for migratory birds and shorebirds in the Eastern Caribbean and an important tourism and economic asset for southwestern Puerto Rico.

Throughout his career, Leo has spent considerable time developing future conservation leaders, especially young talent underrepresented in the conservation workforce. Drawing from his own experience, he championed the Service's internship programs and initiated efforts to foster a welcoming culture and connectedness for students and new employees through mentorships and exposure to a wide array of Service programs and people.

We are forever grateful to Leo for his leadership in conservation and commitment to keeping Puerto Rico a vibrant, beautiful place we call home.

Gracias, Leo.

RECOGNIZING THE SELFLESS AND COURAGEOUS HUMANITARIAN ACTS OF RICHARD CAMPOS

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Richard Campos for his commitment and dedication to the people of the United States and victims of violence abroad. Through his selfless service and generous spirit, Richard has made a difference in the lives of countless individuals around the world.

Richard was born in French Camp, California, and grew up in nearby Stockton. At just

17 years of age, he joined the United States Marine Corps. After serving in the Marines Corps, Richard returned home and continued to serve his community as a San Joaquin County Deputy Marshall and then as San Joaquin County Deputy Sheriff. He concurrently enlisted in the National Guard and was deployed to Iraq in 2003.

While Richard was serving in his roles with San Joaquin County, he befriended his colleague, Doug Taylor, and Doug's son, Mark Taylor. Richard was inspired by Mark, a successful surgeon who decided that he needed to help not only his country but also innocent victims of war abroad. With this passion, Mark joined the United States Army, serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq. Tragically, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Taylor was killed in action in Fallujah, Iraq. Doug was heartbroken and shortly passed after his son's death. Richard was grief-stricken by the passing of his friends and decided to make it his life's mission to honor both Doug and Mark.

Richard recalled stories told by Mark of the great need for humanitarian aid in Iraq. One day while reading the newspaper, he was moved by a story about a children's hospital in Basra, Iraq that was left unbuilt, leaving the children without access to medical care. He felt compelled to act and started making phone calls. Although it took nearly two years to secure supplies and find transportation for this mission, in 2009 he was able to personally deliver almost 5 million dollars' worth of medical supplies to the hospital. Following this experience, Richard felt he needed to do more, and decided that providing whatever aid he could to civilians in a warzone was the best way to pay homage to the lives of his belated friends, Doug and Mark.

When Richard delivered supplies to Basra, he learned of the great need for humanitarian aid in Kurdistan in northern Iraq. From 2010 to 2014, Richard traveled back and forth from the United States to Iraq to bring much-needed supplies to the Kurdish minority in that region. Richard operated as a one-man team and paid for the supplies and trips out of his own pocket.

In 2014, ISIL started to gain ground in Iraq, so Richard turned his attention to the plight of the Yazidis in Iraq. Yazidis, especially women and children, were systematically persecuted by ISIL forces. Richard visited refugee camps and asked what the people needed. Everything from medical supplies to warm clothing was requested. Richard, without hesitation, went to work again, journeying back and forth from the United States to Iraq to bring supplies and aid. He traveled at least twice a year to provide lifesaving help to the Yazidis.

Aside from aid and supplies, Richard also brought attention to the plight of refugees through his documentary, "The Longest Road." He traveled the world recounting his firsthand experiences and sharing how ordinary people can step up to help others in need. Along the way, Richard was able to make new friends and acquaintances who helped him on his journey of service.

In February of 2022, as war broke out in Ukraine, Richard was once again drawn to help. He took a detour while returning from Iraq to visit Ukraine. There, he found himself in a church with Ukrainian civilians and promised them that he would return with help, and as he had done before, Richard went back home to secure supplies. He kept his promise, delivering aid to the people of Ukraine.

To this day, Richard continues to help people around the world. He first served his country as a soldier and law enforcement officer and now serves the world as a humanitarian. Richard Campos is the epitome of heroism and selflessness, and to that end, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing him for his distinguished service.

RECOGNIZING MARILYN AND C.L. FORDYCE UPON THEIR 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marilyn and C.L. Fordyce upon their 70th Wedding Anniversary. They are wonderful people that, through thick and thin, have stood by each other's side.

Christmas Day in 1952, days before C.L. Fordyce left for Army basic training, he had the good fortune of marrying Marilyn Sanders in the home of her aunt and uncle. For 2 years, C.L. served in the First Armored Division and Marilyn worked for MFA Agri-Service and managed to wreck "only" 1 car. Upon C.L.'s return the couple moved into the home that he and his wife continue to share today. The marriage they share has seen nearly any and everything that a person could see. Good times, bad times, victory, loss, children, grandchildren, all of the ingredients of a full life. With all of that, they continue to be a rock for their community, friends and, most importantly, their family. We should all be so blessed.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Marilyn and C.L. Fordyce for their Seventieth Wedding Anniversary. They are incredible people who set a sterling example of what marriage should be. I am extremely proud to represent them in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF JOHN D'AGOSTINI

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, you want to understand successful law enforcement, the first place to look is the career of El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini. It's not hard: it was under his leadership—indeed, because of his leadership—that the day-to-day operations of his department became the subject of the popular TV series, "The Sheriffs of El Dorado County"—that ran from 2014 to 2019.

It is the very definition of successful policing—pioneered by Sir Robert Peale and perfected and practiced by Sheriff D'Agostini. Ideal police departments are run as extensions of the communities they serve—they work in partnership with local citizens—and this was the heart of Sheriff D'Agostini's success.

I've seen that in action over and over. During the devastating King Fire, I watched him at his post even when his own ranch was immi-

nently threatened. During the Caldor Fire, he opened that same ranch to the stream of evacuees who had fled the devastation with only the clothes on their backs. I can't tell you the number of times I watched him during these terrifying disasters—always calm, always focused, always reassuring, and omnipresent.

He is loved by his community and his department because he loves them—and that caring is what binds the community to the Sheriff's department and exemplified and indeed, defined, his successful record of modern policing.

He was first elected in 2010 by a margin of less than 1,300 votes. But as he proved himself—he became a beloved institution in the community and won re-election overwhelmingly in 2014 and 2018—and would have won by acclamation in 2022, but for the fact that he chose to retire back into the community he has so faithfully served and protected.

They were not all easy years. He lost a deputy to an illegal alien in an illegal marijuana grow in 2019 and became a national figure warning of the dangers that our porous border and sanctuary policies present to communities across America and to those who risk their lives to protect us.

When state bureaucrats ordered businesses to shut down during the Covid hysteria, Sheriff D'Agostini stood up for the constitutional rights of his constituents and refused to destroy their livelihoods. His courageous stand has since been affirmed by the mounting evidence that the lockdowns cost lives, destroyed livelihoods and did nothing to slow the spread of the disease.

Sheriff D'Agostini worked his way up through the ranks, first graduating from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Academy in 1993. Throughout his career, Sheriff D'Agostini served in numerous positions including Patrol Deputy, Detective, SWAT Team Member, Narcotics Investigator, Rangemaster and Firearms Instructor, and investigator for the Amador County District Attorney's Office.

Sheriff D'Agostini is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to the community including his leadership in constructing a new Public Safety Headquarters located in Placerville. This building now provides local law enforcement with emergency operation services, a 9–1–1 dispatch center, a morgue, an evidence building, a special operations and training building, as well as an indoor shooting range and armory.

Madam Speaker, without law enforcement there is no law, and without law there is no civilization, which is why it is impossible to overstate the necessity of our local police departments and the law and order they uphold within our communities. I am proud today to congratulate John on his numerous accomplishments and his exemplary leadership, and on behalf of grateful citizens across El Dorado County, to thank him for his extraordinary service.

El Dorado County has been extremely fortunate to have had his leadership for the past 12 years. And although he isn't going anywhere—he's retiring right back into the community that raised him, and although his successor is well prepared under his tutelage to carry on his successful policies—it won't stop us from missing him in the role he defined and the responsibilities he discharged so well.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENTS HELPING YOUNG STUDENTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce the Students Helping Young Students Act. This important legislation will invest in college students who support and mentor K–12 students at after-school activities. This legislation will make a meaningful difference in the lives of all Hoosier students, and young Americans across the country, by ensuring that college students can be compensated for the critical work of mentoring and supporting their younger counterparts.

It is an honor to represent students of all ages in Indiana's Seventh District. I am continually impressed by the many college students in my district and across the country that, in addition to their studies, help mentor and support K–12 students in after-school programs. These college students, by serving as powerful examples and mentors, continue to inspire my colleagues and I about the importance of peer mentorship opportunities. This includes the crucial role of workstudy programs in helping students finance their postsecondary education.

Several examples in Indiana underscore the importance of supporting mentorship programs, both to the mentee and the mentor. The influence and investment from a mentor can improve younger lives and outcomes. Their stories are common: in fact, at-risk youth that have a mentor are 55 percent more likely to attend college. Moreover, at-risk youth that have a mentor are 52 percent less likely to skip a day of school and 46 percent less likely to use drugs. Mentoring also increases community engagement, as at-risk students are 78 percent more likely to volunteer in their community and are 130 percent more likely to hold a leadership role in clubs or teams with a mentor in their lives. Mentoring not only helps students stay away from drugs and violence, but also live healthier lives and improve school performance. Mentees participating in mentorship programs have also performed higher on the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP) tests.

Because of these unmistakable benefits, Congress must do more to support these after-school programs and their student mentors. Although after-school mentorship programs often intersect with students' courses of study and benefit the community, after-school

activities are not currently considered a community service under the Federal Work-Study program. This means that college students cannot rely on compensation from Federal Work-Study for their participation in after-school activities.

The Federal Work-Study program has helped support undergraduate and graduate students, who have exhibited financial need, find part-time jobs. In the 2018 school year, the Federal Work-Study program employed about 600,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Across all higher education, 7 in 10 college students work at least 15 hours per week to help cover their tuition, and 1 in 4 work more than 35 hours a week. While mentorship's benefits are clear, the absence of after-school activities from consideration as work-study programs causes students with financial need to more often pursue other opportunities. This means that many students are unable to serve in mentorship roles, for financial reasons, even if it aligns with their course of study. This challenge exacerbates the widening mentoring gap, which includes the over 9 million young people without a mentor outside their family to support their growth and education.

As a result, more needs to be done to help compensate students who choose to serve their communities by mentoring younger students. That is why the Students Helping Young Students Act is so important. This bill incorporates work at after-school programs into the Federal Work-Study Program under community service by making participation in these programs eligible for federal funds. In short, this bill allows college students to access Federal Work-Study funds for their participation in after-school activities. Moreover, this legislation requires eligible schools to allocate federal funds to students who want to work with after-school programs.

Through the Students Helping Young Students Act, after-school mentoring programs will count as community service under the Federal Work-Study program. Students can be compensated for their work, including time spent in training and travel, directly related to the program. This will allow any student who wishes to serve in their community to participate in mentorship activities, regardless of their financial background. As a result, the Students Helping Young Students Act will also help close the mentoring gap and ensure that younger students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have the support they need to succeed and reach their goals.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill to ensure that Federal Work-Study students are com-

pensated for their mentorship efforts. It is important that Congress supports these students in their pursuit to serve our communities. I urge the House to support this bill.

**HONORING THE SERVICE OF
LARISSA PLUNTO**

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the professional achievements and dedication of Larissa Plunto, who has served in my office for more than 5 years—first as a regional director and then as a trusted senior policy advisor.

Larissa's heart for people shone through her work in my office. She truly believed that we could enact lasting, positive change. And that's exactly what she strived to do, dedicating much of her time to fighting the scourge of human trafficking across Texas and our Nation.

I am very grateful for Larissa's service to the Houston area and beyond. While she will be missed in my office, I know she will continue following her passions and being a voice for the voiceless wherever she goes.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 22, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.